

PLYMOUTH CAST NEWSLETTER – 17th May 2017

Dear Heads, Governors, Staff and Volunteers,

Welcome to the Plymouth CAST fortnightly newsletter. In this edition the focus will be

1. Message from Kate Griffin
2. School Successes
3. Primary Teaching Services – Framework Agreement
4. Free Safeguarding Course for Governors
5. Autumn Pause for Thought
6. Event Dates
7. Plymouth CAST Twitter Page
8. Date of Next Newsletter: 31st May 2017

1. Message from Kate Griffin, Interim CEO

I would like to thank the Head Teachers who provided such encouraging predictions recently.

If we achieve these results we shall be able to convince the RSC that our standards are improving rapidly. The RSC and her team met with the Board Friday last and at the beginning of the meeting she met with the Area Advisers. She wanted to meet them to obtain a view of how their work is impacting on schools and the progress of their pupils. She was clearly impressed by the work they are doing and this together with your predications and the results of the reviews that had been conducted by her educational specialists provide a very positive backdrop to the meeting which went on to discuss our options for governance in the future, the Conference planned for the 16th June at Exeter Race Course will be very important. Please see item 6. Events for details.

2. School Successes

St John the Baptist School in Dartmouth is celebrating their win at the Primary Maths Challenge.

On Tuesday 25th March Year 5 children from local primary schools joined forces to compete in a Maths Challenge. It was organised by the Head of Maths at Dartmouth Academy and was the first competition of its kind. There were 14 teams from 9 different schools and there were 3 challenging activities to solve. St John's team was made up of Ewan Chacksfield, Rachel Distin, Ben Lomas and Sarah Moseley.



All the children said - "We feel ecstatic and proud and have been taught well by all our teachers at St Johns." Rachel said "The best bit was when they announced our school had won especially as we weren't expecting to win."



From Special Measures to Good

We have had two schools that prior to conversion were judged to be in Special Measures. We are delighted that after their recent inspection St Paul's in Plymouth and Our Lady & St Patrick's have now been judged as good. We would like to send our congratulations to staff in both schools for this wonderful achievement.

Outlined on the next page are some of the comments from the Ofsted report.

St Paul's Catholic Primary School, Plymouth

The school has improved rapidly under the strong leadership of the new Headteacher and her team.

Teaching has improved and pupils are making rapid progress. The school's leaders have the confidence of governors, parents and pupils.

Governors have an in-depth knowledge of the school. They support and challenge the leadership on all areas of school improvement.

Teachers are very supportive of the changes made. The Headteacher has ensured that new, higher expectations are shared by nearly all staff.

Disadvantaged pupils receive good support and, in nearly all year groups and subjects, are making progress at a rate similar to other pupils.

Children in the Reception class get off to a good start. They enjoy coming to school and are well taught, so they are ready to move on to Year 1.

Pupils who have special educational needs and/or disabilities receive well-planned, targeted support and make good progress from their different starting points.

Teachers plan interesting lessons and activities and pupils enjoy their learning.

Teachers closely monitor progress and, supported by school leaders, give extra help to those who need to catch up.

Pupils are well behaved and pay attention in lessons. They have good attitudes to learning.

Arrangements for safeguarding are good. Pupils feel safe and know that adults will help and protect them.

A very large majority of pupils and parents say that bullying is rare but, if it does occur, is dealt with well by the school.

Our Lady & St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Teignmouth

School leaders have a good understanding of the school. Their self-evaluation and plans for school improvement identify accurately areas in need of further development.

Governance is strong. Governors provide an appropriate balance of challenge and support

to senior leaders and understand what the school needs to do to improve further.

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good. Pupils develop a secure knowledge and understanding from their different starting points. They make good progress overall in English and mathematics.

Teachers and teaching assistants work well together to motivate pupils and ensure their good progress.

Pupils feel safe in school. They have positive relationships with staff and enjoy being at school.

Pupils' behaviour is good. Their attitudes to learning and school are positive. Pupils are confident and self-assured.

Leadership of the early years is good. Teachers have high expectations and a thorough knowledge of each child's individual needs and interests. As a result, children make good progress.

Parents are positive about the school. They confirm that outcomes for pupils are improving and that the school works effectively to keep their children safe.

3. The Trust has negotiated a framework agreement with PTS (Primary Teaching Services) who provide a broad range of educational and classroom support items.
www.primaryteaching.co.uk



10 of our Academies already use this supplier and can take advantage of the 10% discount code by entering 'TNA' at point of sale **with immediate effect**. New accounts are being created for all CAST Academies not already registered. When this is complete the entire contract will roll up, the Trust will pay the bill and adjust forthcoming tranche payments. This will significantly reduce administration.

4. There is a free email safeguarding course aimed at governors available
<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/understandingsafeguardingandgovernance2/>

5. **Autumn Pause for Thought**

BBC Devon have agreed that four of our children\young people write and perform "Thought for the Day". This is the first time the opportunity has been given to under 18's. They will go to the BBC studios (at 5.20am!) with me and a teacher or parent, perform it live and tour the Look South-West TV studios. It is a creative combination of literacy and RE. We are looking for an articulate student from KS2, KS3, KS4 and Sixth form. David would help the student to prepare and perform their piece. Let's get schools in the news for the right reasons. If you would like more detail please contact David Wells by email david.wells@plymouthcast.org.uk.

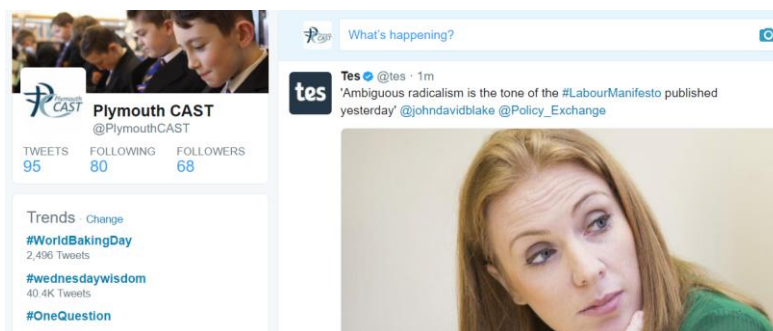
6. **Event Dates**

6 June	Admin Network Meeting – Central Area – St Boniface House
8 June	Admin Network Meeting – East Area – Sir John Colefox Academy
13 June	Primary RE Leaders Meeting – Central Area – St Boniface House
14 June	Primary RE Leaders Meeting – West Area – St Boniface House

- 15 June Strategic Importance of Governors – West Area – St John’s School, Camborne
- 16 June Schools Summit Meeting – All Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors – Exeter Racecourse from 10am to 4pm, please book via the CAST website calendar.
- 20 June Governor Support Programme – title tbc – West Area – Lanhydrock Hotel
- 20 June & 27 June Governor Support Programme – Safer Recruitment Training – East Area – Kingston Maurward College
- 21 June Primary RE Leaders Meeting – East Area – George Albert Hotel, Dorchester
- 21 June Governor Support Programme – title tbc – Central Area – Exeter Racecourse
- 22 June Governor Support Programme – title tbc – East Area – Kingston Maurward College
- 27 June Admin Network Meeting – West Area – Lanhydrock Country Club, Bodmin
- 28 June Secondary Heads of RE – All Areas – St Boniface House, Ashburton
- 11 July Achieving Excellence in a Catholic School – Head Teachers All Areas – St Boniface House, Ashburton

All above events are now on our website calendar with live booking links
<http://www.plymouthcast.org.uk/web/calendar/273068>

7. If your school has Twitter, please remember to follow us and use #CASTSchools whenever you tweet!



8. Date of Next Newsletter: 31st May 2017

Kate Griffin
 Interim Chief Executive Officers

Distribution List

- CAST Board Members
- Chairs of the Local Governing Bodies (via Clerks)
- Head Teachers
- Clerks to Local Governing Bodies
- CAST Senior Management Team
- All CAST Support Staff including Area Advisers
- Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Members

Ofsted Inspections since October 2016

East

St Catherine's, Bridport	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's, Poole	Good
St Mary's, Dorchester	Good
St Augustine's, Weymouth	Good
St Mary's, Poole	Requires Improvement
St Mary's Marnhull	Good
St Mary's Axminster	Requires Improvement

Central

Our Lady & St Patrick's, Teignmouth	Good
St Mary's, Buckfast	Good
St Joseph's, Exmouth	Requires Improvement
Priory, Torquay	Special Measures
Queensway, Torquay	Special Measures
Our Lady's, Barnstaple	Requires Improvement
St Margaret Clitherow, Brixham	Special Measures
Sacred Heart, Paignton	Good
St John's, Tiverton	Requires Improvement
St John's, Dartmouth	Good

West

Notre Dame, Plymouth	Requires Improvement
St Joseph's, Plymouth	Good
St John's, Camborne	Good
Keyham Barton, Plymouth	Requires Improvement
St Mary's, Penzance	Special Measures
St Mary's, Bodmin	Requires Improvement
St Peter's, Plymouth	Good
Cathedral, Plymouth	Good
St Paul's, Plymouth	Good
St Boniface College, Plymouth	Waiting Publication